Amendments to the Specification

Please amend the title in this application to read;

-- NUCLEIC ACIDS ENCODING DIPEPTIDYL PEPTIDASES --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 11 on page 14 with the following amended paragraph:

-- Figure 2. Nucleotide sequence and amino acid sequence of human DPP8. The nucleotide sequence (SEQ ID NO: 2) and predicted one letter code amino acid sequence (SEQ ID NO: 1) are shown. ~~This~~ The amino acid sequence shows no putative membrane spanning domain (deduced from hydrophobicity plots) or potential N-linked glycosylation sites. The putative serine recognition site and aspartic acid and histidine which form the Ser-Asp-His catalytic triad are marked. Base pairs are numbered in the right margin. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 20 on page 14 with the following amended paragraph:

-- Figure 3. Alignment of the deduced amino acid residue sequence of DPP8 (SEQ ID NO: 1) with the *C. elegans* homolog of DPP8 (SEQ ID NO: 32) and human DPPIV (SEQ ID NO: 33). Amino-acid residues are numbered in the right margin. Amino-acid residues identical in all three proteins are boxed. Asterisks mark the putative catalytic triad residues and two glutamates of the -propeller domain essential for DPPIV enzyme activity. The grey shading denotes the hydrolase domain of these proteins. Filled triangles joined by lines indicate starts and ends of alternatively spliced transcripts, stPBMCdy3-3-10 (solid lines), T8 (dashed lines) and T21 (solid lines). The alignment was constructed using the PILEUP program in GCG. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 1 on page 15 with the following amended paragraph:

-- Figure 4. Panel A shows a Northern Blot analysis of DPP8 expression. Human multiple tissue

Northern blots (CLONTECH) containing 2 μg per lane of poly A^+ RNA were hybridized with a ^{32}P labeled DPP8 probe at 68°C and washed at high stringency. The autoradiograph was exposed for 1 day at -70°C with a BIOMAX MS screen. Molecular mass markers are indicated in base pairs on the left side of each autoradiogram. ~~Figure 4a. Master~~ Panel B shows a master RNA (CLONTECH) blot of poly A^+ RNA was hybridized with a ^{32}P ~~labelled~~ labeled DPP8 probe at 65°C and washed at high stringency. The autoradiograph was exposed for 3 days at -70°C with BIOMAX MS screen. DPP8 mRNA was detected in all tissues examined. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 16 on page 16 with the following amended paragraph:

-- Figure 9. Northern blot analysis of murine DPP8 expression. A murine Northern blot containing 10 μg per lane of total RNA was hybridized with a ^{32}P-labeled human DPP8 probe at 60 °C and washed at low stringency. Autoradiographic exposure was for 3 days at -70 °C with a BIOMAX MS screen. Figure 9A shows a Northern blot of total RNA from mouse liver hybridized to a human DPP8 probe. Figure 9B shows a Southern blot of a 537 bp PCR product from DPP8 mRNA.

Please replace the abstract with the new abstract presented on the following page.